

**REMARKS**

The Office action of June 22, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 2 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over WO 03/076680 to Trakowski et al. in view of JP 10298727 and JP 10-110251.

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over WO '680 in view of JP 727 and JP 251, and further in view of US 4912407.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 11.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions and methods disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to WO '680, it can be seen that this reference discloses a device for hot dip coating metal strands.

JP 727 discloses a device for hot dip coating metal strands.

JP 251 discloses a damping device.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1, 2 and 7-11 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references, nor their combination, teach a method and device for hot-dip coating a metal strand, as in the presently claimed invention. The references do not teach sensors arranged completely away from the inductors as recited in the amended independent claims now on file. JP 251 teaches sensors arranged no closer to the center line of the guide channel than a smallest distance of the inductor from the center line. There is no teaching of sensors arranged closer to the center line of the guide channel than the innermost surface of the inductors, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

**HM-631**

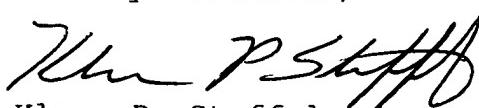
US 4,912,407 has also been considered. This reference adds nothing to the references discussed above so as to suggest the presently claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 21, 2009.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Klaus P. Stoffel".

Date: December 21, 2009